

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment places the claims in the same form as in the Substitute Specification and Marked-Up Copy submitted with the filing of the application. Please consider the changes made in the Substitute Specification and Marked-Up copy. The Substitute Specification and the Marked-Up copy filed do not include any substantive changes that would change the scope of the patent. The above preliminary amendment was made to remove multiple dependencies in claims 17 and 19, and to make minor editorial changes to all claims, and to insert an appropriate abstract paragraph as required in US practice.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

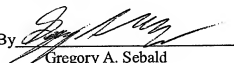
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Gregory A. Sebald (Reg. No. 33,280), at (612) 336-4728.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300



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By 
Gregory A. Sebald
Reg. No. 33,280

GAS/cjc